



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine  
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
US Department of Agriculture  
OMB Information Collection  
Approval No.: 0524-0046  
Expiration Date: 8/31/2013

## Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

### Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Veterinary Shortage ID Code: VT111**

#### Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Northeast section of Vermont, including Orleans, Essex, Caledonia, eastern Lamoille and northern Washington counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
Location of Position: This shortage area could be covered most conveniently by centering a practice territory on State route 15 anywhere between the towns of Morrisville (zip code 05661) and Hardwick (zip code 05843)

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

#### Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☐ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☒ Beef Cattle
- ☒ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☒ Poultry
- ☒ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : \_cervids; \_  
Overall case load is more than 50% dairy cattle with combination of remaining species accounting for other 50%; swine represents least significant component.

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health

<input type="checkbox"/>	Epidemiology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

**This region of Vermont is currently experiencing the most critical need for food animal veterinary services; securing services for this region would help protect livestock and human health and safety. It would also help ensure the continued security of the state's food supply and provide direct service to 12 small ruminant commercial dairies and 278 commercial bovine dairies containing an estimated 36,000 head of cattle. Given Vermont's relatively small public practice veterinary staff, an adequate supply of private sector accredited veterinarians is essential, especially in this region that includes a border with New Hampshire and Canada and where interstate and international movements of livestock occurs frequently. This veterinarian would help to serve as Vermont's eyes, ears, and boots on the ground regarding surveillance for foreign and domestic diseases, emergency preparedness and response, and ultimately, protection of the state's food supply in one of the most agriculturally dense regions of the state. Retention of this individual will help to counter the alarming attrition rate of food animal veterinarians in Vermont that has resulted in a projected need for 13 additional food animal veterinarians by 2014. It will help protect the continued economic viability of Vermont's dairy industry while ensuring that Vermonters have access to safe local food products.**

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

**Primary activities required of a veterinarian willing to fill this position include dairy herd health consultations; these mostly consist of preventative health consults, disease detection/treatment, nutritional consults, and manual and ultrasound-based pregnancy determination. Added expertise in embryo transfer techniques is desirable. Monitoring of, and providing assistance to, producers regarding intrastate, interstate, and international movement of all livestock species would also be included in the applicant veterinarian's scope of work, as well as all other duties normally performed by accredited food animal veterinarians. Vermont has a robust local-vore movement and recently expanded its allowance of bovine and small ruminant raw milk sales. As a result, the applicant veterinarian would benefit from the ability to successfully advise clients on pre-harvest decisions that could impact food safety. In addition to dairy herd health activities, smaller organic and conventional livestock producers who serve a niche market are numerous in Vermont. Activities associated with serving this clientele would include treatment of individual sick animals on a routine and emergency basis, in addition to engaging in herd health related activities. During the first year, a successful applicant could expect to spend 30 - 50% of his or her time performing the aforementioned activities in this shortage area.**

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

**Past recruitment efforts include an unsuccessful 2009 attempt led by the State Veterinarian and the Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, with stakeholder and state legislative input, to implement a loan repayment program for eligible Vermont livestock veterinarians. Recruitment activities are undertaken regularly by the veterinary faculty at the University of Vermont. Recruitment/retention efforts made by a retiring mixed animal practice owner in this area have included offering for sale a turn-key practice for purchasers willing to remain and serve existing food animal clientele and offering immediate partnership to new graduates willing to expand food animal veterinary service in the same area. Future ability to attract/retain a food animal veterinarian for this region, without an incentive program, appears grim**

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

**Vermont ships approximately 85% of its milk out of state. Producers who ship product in a regional or national market must remain compliant with standards developed by NCIMS, including those pertaining to antibiotic administration and extra-label use of other medications. If a food animal veterinarian is not secured for the dairy-dense northeast region of Vermont, the economic sustainability of agriculture in this sector will be compromised and the safety of the food supply available to consumers regionally and nationally could be compromised. Vermont has 12 slaughter and 13 processing facilities and the case-load for these facilities is provided by Vermont producers who depend on private veterinarians to ensure the health and productivity of their livestock and poultry species. Specifically, northeast Vermont contains commercial and hobby producers of all species of livestock, most of which end up in the food supply. If sufficient veterinary services are not secured for this region of the state, then the health of livestock during the pre-harvest phase will be compromised as will the security of chicken, game bird, beef, pork and venison food products. Inadequate numbers of food animal veterinarians in the region could also result in foreign and domestic livestock diseases remaining undetected there for unacceptable lengths of time and will continue to put additional burden on farmers to recognize the early signs of disease that could negatively impact animal**

**and human health. This dilemma presents a risk not only to Vermont's livestock industry but to those in states to which these animals are likely to be shipped.**

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

N/A

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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